

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9 and 11 were rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 11-15, 21-23, 28 and 33-41 of U.S. Pat. No. 7,445,255 in view of Butt ('263). Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Williamson, Jr. et al. ('106) in view of Hosmer ('899) and Butt ('263). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Williamson, Jr. et al. in view of Hosmer and Butt as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Hughes ('574).

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claim language and overcome the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection. The words "to, in an open position, electrically isolate said corresponding locking mechanism from said power source and, in a closed position, electrically connect said corresponding locking mechanism to said power source to energize said corresponding locking mechanism" to clarify how each switch is electrically coupled *between* the power source and a corresponding locking mechanism.

Claim 1 has also been amended to clarify an electrical jumper may be selectively connected to the override connection to electrically connect the

plurality of locking mechanisms to the power source. The words “by pass” and “directly” have been deleted.

According to the Miriam-Webster dictionary, a jumper is a connection used to close or break or cut out part of a circuit. As described on page 11, line 27 to page 12, line 3, the master switch 700, when closed, short circuits the reed switches 702 to energize all solenoid coils 704 from power supply 710. The master switch and associated electrical connections act as an electrical jumper to cut out the switches 702 and electrically close the circuit from the power supply 17 to the plurality of locking mechanisms as claimed in claim 1. The claim language is directed to one of ordinary skill in the art, one who is capable of understanding the language of claim 1 clearly.

In response to the obviousness-type double patenting rejection in view of U.S. Pat. No. 7,445,255 and Butt, neither Butt nor U.S. Pat. No. 7,445,255 teach a modular system wherein each locking mechanism includes an override connection to which an electrical jumper may be selectively connected to electrically connect the plurality of locking mechanisms to the power source. Furthermore, an electrical jumper may be connected to any one locking mechanism of the modular system of claim 1.

The locking system of Butt is not modular. The locking system of Butt cannot be configured by selectively connecting an electrical jumper such as an

override switch to any one locking mechanism. The master switch 70 of Butt cannot be selectively connected to any one locking mechanism in a modular fashion like the system of the present invention. Perhaps there has been a misinterpretation of the meaning of selectively connected? On page 3, line 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner has stated, that the system of Butt has locking mechanisms that may be *selectively wired*. The locking system of Butt is indicated by the schematic of Figure 7. Master switch 70 is hardwired into the system in the control console 73. Master switch 70 is a key switch as shown in Figure 1. The position of the control panel and the master switch is mechanically fixed in relation to the rest of the system. The master switch cannot be *selectively connected* to the system, or to any one locking mechanism (at each door to be locked).

U.S. Pat. No. 7,445,255 includes claims that are patently distinct from the claims of the present invention. The claims of the present invention are not obvious in view of U.S. Pat. No. 7,445,255 and Butt for the reasons given above.

On pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that claim 1 (and dependent claims 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11) is obvious in view of Williamson, Hosmer and Butt.

However, neither Williamson, Hosmer or Butt disclose a modular system that has a plurality of locking mechanisms, each said locking mechanism having an

override connection to which an electrical jumper may be selectively connected to electrically connect said plurality of locking mechanisms to the power source.

The override switch may be connected to the override connection of any one locking mechanism. Each locking mechanism is mechanically and electrically identical, each with the same number of electrical connections. Each connection for connecting a locking mechanism to another locking mechanism, or to the master switch or the power source is the same. This provides the user or installer flexibility when installing the locking system of the present invention. This flexibility allows an unskilled person to install and configure the system. No other prior art locking system provides this benefit. The system installer may selectively connect an electrical jumper to any one locking mechanism. As each locking mechanism is the same individual subassembly, the lock system is modular.

New dependent claims 12-14

Figure 1 of the present invention represents the electrical system of the locking system of the present invention. As described on page 12, there is a second supply line 706 paralleled through each lock. As can be seen from Figure 7, two adjacent locking mechanisms are electrically connected together via three wires. The three wires are preferably bundled together into a single electrical cable as indicated in Figure 6. As shown in Figure 7, such a three core cable could be

connected to each locking mechanism at any one of three positions or connection points on a locking mechanism.

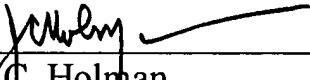
Similarly the master override switch preferably includes electrical cable which could also be connected to a locking mechanism at any one of the three positions or connection points. Furthermore, the power source could be connected to any one of the three positions or connections on a locking mechanism. As described on page 11, lines 24 to 26, a connector may be exposed by breaking out a portion of the locking mechanism body.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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